

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### **Preformed Line Products Co.**

#### **Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions**

#### **Preformed Line Products Adopts Lean, Six Sigma**

##### **Client Profile:**

Preformed Line Products Company is a manufacturer of telecommunications and power hardware located in Rogers, Arkansas. The company employs approximately 250 people.

##### **Situation:**

Preformed Line Products Company (PLP) embraced total quality management (TQM) as a driving philosophy in 1990. As a part of that effort, the company formed teams by manufacturing processes, which began implementing continuous improvements using the principles of TQM. In 2001, a group of employees and managers learned about lean manufacturing through their attendance at Lean 101 and Learning to See classes offered by the Arkansas Manufacturing Extension Network (the Network), a NIST MEP network affiliate. The company asked the Network to offer on-site training in lean concepts to all its employees.

##### **Solution:**

The Network trained approximately 50 PLP employees in Lean 101, and another 20 plant employees took the week-long lean certification course. One PLP employee has attended six-sigma black belt training. Now the company is embarking on a corporate-wide lean implementation program, led by newly-appointed PLP lean directors. Eleven identified value streams have been mapped to identify inefficiencies and waste during three Network-led value stream mapping events. The company has placed employees in charge of lean implementations on each value stream. Additionally, PLP's six-sigma black belt led an initiative to open up floor space, organize the work place, and reclaim valuable manufacturing space.

##### **Results:**

Trained 50 employees in lean manufacturing; 20 employees are lean-certified.

Trained one employee to become a six-sigma black belt.

Created several new positions of responsibility associated with lean implementation.

Improved employee morale.

Improving plant processes, procedures, and appearance to gain competitive edge.

##### **Testimonial:**

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

“The training and assistance we have received from the Arkansas Manufacturing Extension Network has allowed us to bring several employees and managers into a working knowledge of the concepts of lean. We believe we are poised to take advantage of this knowledge and to become a world class manufacturer.”

John Coleman, Manufacturing Systems Manager